

9017/PMK  
CICHANOWICZ, CALLAN, KEANE,  
VENGROW & TEXTOR, LLP  
61 Broadway, Suite 3000  
New York, New York 10006-2802  
(212) 344-7042  
*Attorneys for Defendants*  
YANG MING MARINE TRANSPORT CORP. and  
YANGMING (UK) LTD.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ENERGIZER S.A.,

Plaintiff,

- against -

M/V YM GREEN, her engines, boilers and  
tackle *in rem.*; YANG MING MARINE  
TRANSPORT CORP.; YANGMING (UK) LTD.;  
ALL OCEANS TRANSPORTATION INC.;  
KAWASAKI KISEN KAISHA LTD.; CONTERM  
HONG KONG LTD.; VANGUARD LOGISTICS  
SERVICES HONG KONG LTD.; FIEGE GOTH  
CO., LTD.; and SHENZHEN HIGH POWER  
TECHNOLOGY CO. LTD.

Defendants.

07 CV 7406 (Judge Swain)

ECF CASE

**AMENDED ANSWER WITH  
CONTINGENT COUNTER-  
CLAIM TO THE CROSS-  
CLAIMS OF DEFENDANTS  
CONTERM AND VANGUARD**

Defendants YANG MING MARINE TRANSPORT CORP. and YANGMING (UK) LTD. (both hereinafter “YML”), by their attorneys Cichanowicz, Callan, Keane, Vengrow & Textor, LLP, answer the cross-claims of defendants Conterm and Vanguard and assert a contingent counter-claim against them upon information and belief as follows:

1. Denies the allegations of paragraph 28.
2. Denies the allegations of paragraph 29.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

3. The shipments in question were carried from Hong Kong to Basel, Switzerland via Hamburg, Germany pursuant to defendant K-Line bill of lading contracts and were, therefore, subject to the Hague Visby Rules.
4. Defendants, YML, claim the benefit of all exceptions, exemptions and limitations contained in the Hague Visby Rules and K-Line bill of lading to the full extent they may be applicable to them.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5. The shipments in question were carried pursuant to bills of lading issued by defendant K-Line and, upon information and belief, pursuant to bills of lading issued by underlying defendant Non Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC) bills of lading.
6. Defendants, YML, claim the benefit of all exceptions, exemptions and limitations contained in any bills of lading issued by any VOCC or NVOCC defendants pursuant to which this cargo was carried on the basis of the Himalaya Clauses contained in such bills of lading to the full extent such provisions may be applicable to them.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

7. Any damage that was caused to plaintiff's cargo was the direct result of an act, fault or neglect of plaintiff, its agents, suppliers, contractors, affiliates or subsidiaries and in regard to the manufacture, stowage, shifting, shipment, securing or packaging of the cargo in question.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

8. Defendants YML are not liable under the Hague or Hague Visby Rules for any loss or damage to plaintiff's cargo as alleged in the complaint since

the alleged loss or damage occurred as a result of fire and such fire was not caused by the actual fault or privity of defendants YML.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9. The cargoes in question were shipped pursuant to a bill of lading contract issued by defendant K-Line which bill of lading provides that all actions and claims brought pursuant to such bill of lading shall be brought in the courts sitting in Tokyo, Japan.
10. All claims against defendant, YML, should be dismissed in favor of jurisdiction in Japan.

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11. The shipments in question moved from Hong Kong to Basel, Switzerland via Hamburg on a foreign flag vessel pursuant to bills of lading issued by a Japanese carrier and therefore the instant action has no connection whatsoever with the Southern District of New York and should be dismissed on the basis of forum non-conveniens.

**AS AND FOR CONTINGENT COUNTER-CLAIMS AGAINST DEFENDANTS  
CONTERM HONG KONG LTD., AND VANGUARD LOGISTICS  
SERVICES HONG KONG LTD.**

12. Defendants, YML, repeat and reallege each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1-11 of its answer to the complaint as if heretofore set out at length herein.
13. Certain third parties have claimed against the YML defendants for loss and damage allegedly sustained as a result of the fire that took place on board the MV YM GREEN, including hold no. 4 of said vessel, and have advised that they intend to hold defendants YML liable for any and all

such loss and damage, all liability for which defendants YML have expressly denied.

14. Further, as a result of the fire that occurred in no. 4 hold, the vessel YM GREEN was damaged and containers carried on such vessel were likewise damaged by the fire, and further YML are exposed to general average and salvage liabilities.

15. The said loss and damage was caused in whole or in part by the fault, neglect, breach of contract, and/or breach of warranty of defendants Conterm Hong Kong Ltd., and Vanguard Logistics Services Hong Kong Ltd. including, but not limited to, the fact that plaintiff's cargo possessed undeclared hazardous nature and characteristics and was improperly manufactured, loaded, stowed, handled and/or consolidated, thus causing the fire complained of.

16. To the extent defendants YML are held liable to any of the aforesaid claimants, or to the extent defendants YML have suffered any loss or damage to their own equipment, they are entitled to indemnity and/or contribution from defendants Conterm Hong Kong Ltd., and Vanguard Logistics Services Hong Kong Ltd.

17. This counter-claim is being asserted contingently in that defendant YML will move on the basis of the jurisdiction clause contained in K-Line's bill of lading if K-Line so moves. This counter-claim will only be asserted in the event that such motion is not made or is made but is denied by the court.

**WHEREFORE**, Defendants YML pray:

1. That the cross-claim as against them be dismissed together with costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees incurred in the defense of this action.
2. That, subject to the contingency set forth above, defendants YML be indemnified by co-defendants Conterm Hong Kong Ltd., and Vanguard Logistics Services Hong Kong Ltd. for all claims and liabilities that may be incurred by defendants YML as a result of the fire that took place in the MV YM GREEN.
3. That, subject to the contingency set forth above, defendants YML be indemnified by defendants Conterm Hong Kong Ltd., and Vanguard Logistics Services Hong Kong Ltd. for all liabilities, costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees incurred by YML as a result of claims filed by third parties resulting from the fire that occurred on the MV YM GREEN.
4. That, subject to the contingency set forth above, defendants YML be entitled to recover from defendants Conterm Hong Kong Ltd., and Vanguard Logistics Services Hong Kong Ltd. for all costs of repair of equipment and hull damage to the vessel YM GREEN incurred as a result of the fire which was caused by plaintiff's cargo.

Dated: New York, New York  
February 8, 2008

CICHANOWICZ, CALLAN, KEANE,  
VENGROW & TEXTOR, LLP  
61 Broadway, Suite 3000  
New York, New York 10006  
*Attorneys for Defendants*  
YANG MING MARINE TRANSPORT  
CORP. and YANGMING (UK) LTD.

By: s/ Paul M. Keane  
Paul M. Keane (PMK-5934)

To: HILL RIVKINS & HAYDEN, LLP  
45 Broadway, Suite 1500  
New York, New York 10006  
(212) 669-0600

MAHONEY & KEANE  
111 Broadway, Floor 10  
New York, New York 10006  
(212) 385-1422

DOUGHERTY, RYAN, GIUFFRA, ZAMBITO & HESSION  
131 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 889-2300

LENNON, MURPHY & LENNON, LLC  
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 300  
New York, New York 10170  
(212) 490-6050

KARDARAS & KELLEHER, LLP  
44 Wall Street  
New York, New York 10005  
(212) 785-5050

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND BY ECF**

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to this action.
2. On February 8, 2008, I served a complete copy of YANG MING MARINE TRANSPORT CORP. and YANGMING (UK) LTD. Amended Answer with Contingent Counter-Claim to the Cross-Claims of Defendants Conterm and Yanguard, by regular U.S. mail and/or by ECF, to the following attorneys at their ECF registered address and/or at the following address:

To: HILL RIVKINS & HAYDEN, LLP  
45 Broadway, Suite 1500  
New York, New York 10006  
(212) 669-0600

MAHONEY & KEANE  
111 Broadway, Floor 10  
New York, New York 10006  
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131 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 889-2300

LENNON, MURPHY & LENNON, LLC  
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 300  
New York, New York 10170  
(212) 490-6050

KARDARAS & KELLEHER, LLP  
44 Wall Street  
New York, New York 10005  
(212) 785-5050

  
Jennifer Scianna

DATED: February 8, 2008  
New York, New York